

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 OMB-01 SY-10 OPR-02 NEA-10

M-03 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 RSR-01 /151 W

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O R 021900 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1883

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

DIA DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3034

USCICNSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJECT: QUIJADA ASSASSINATION BRINGS CAMPORA BACK TO CONFER
WITH JUNTA

REF: BA-3009 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ERP HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR QUIJADA ASSASSINATION. ARMED FORCES HAVE IMPOSED MARTIAL LAW ON FIVE PROVINCES AND FEDERAL CAPITAL. CAMPORA ARRIVES BACK IN BUENOS AIRES THIS MORNING FOR URGENT CONFERENCE WITH RULING JUNTA. END SUMMARY.

2. NIGHT APR 30, "22 AUGUST" FACTION OF ERP CLAIMED CREDIT FOR ASSASSINATION OF ADMIRAL QUIJADA AND ANNOUNCED THAT ASSASSIN, ONE VICTOR JOSE FERNANDEZ PALMEIRO, HAD DIED AS RESULT OF WOUND INFLICTED BY CHAUFFER DURING ATTACK.

3. QUIJADA WAS BURIED YESTERDAY AT MOVING CEREMONY ATTENDED BY THOUSANDS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT LANUSSE.

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4. ARMED FORCES HAVE DECLARED FIVE PROVINCES AND FEDERAL CAPITAL TO BE EMERGENCY ZONES AND HAVE IMPOSED MARTIAL LAW-- THIS IN ADDITION TO STATE OF SIEGE WHICH REMAINS IN FORCE FOR WHOLE COUNTRY.

5. CAMPORA WILL ARRIVE BACK IN BUENOS AIRES THIS MORNING AT CABLED REQUEST OF PRESIDENT LANUSSE AND HAS AGREED TO CONFER IMMEDIATELY WITH RULING JUNTA ON TERRORIST PROBLEM. HE WILL ALSO CONFER WITH UCR'S BALBIN AND POSSIBLY WITH OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS. PERONIST SOURCES HAVE COMMENTED TO US THAT WHILE CAMPORA IS NOT LIKELY TO ACCEPT CONDITIONS WHICH ARMED FORCES MIGHT WISH TO IMPOSE BEFORE TURNING POWER OVER TO HIM ON MAY 25, HE, AND GREAT MAJORITY OF PERONIST MOVEMENT, ARE AS CONCERNED AS ARMED FORCES OVER GROWING PROBLEM OF TERRORISM.

6. BOTH PERON AND CAMPORA HAVE BEEN QUOTED FROM MADRID AS DEPLORING GROWING WAVE OF VIOLENCE IN ARGENTINA. BOTH, HOWEVER, WENT BACK TO LINE THAT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE HAVE ACCUMULATED OVER YEARS AND THAT IT CANNOT BE HANDLED BY ARMY AND POLICE ALONE. PERON SAID WHAT COUNTRY NEEDED WAS FREEDOM AND JUSTICE. THIS IS NOT LIKELY TO GO OVER VERY WELL WITH ARMED FORCES, WHO SEE PROBLEM IN LESS HISTORIC TERMS REQUIRING URGENT COUNTER- MEASURES.

7. PRO- PERONIST DAILY MAYORIA'S EDITORIAL THIS MORNING SAYS NAVY'S AGITATION IS UNDERSTANDABLE BUT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION IN ANYONE'S MIND THAT NEITHER PERON, CAMPORA, NOR JUSTICIALISM HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ACTS OF TERROR. ABOVE ALL, EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, IN EXISTING ATMOSPHERE OF VIOLENCE, ALL MUST KEEP COOL HEADS.

8. COMMENT: LOGIC INDICATES THAT ARMED FORCES HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO TURN POWER OVER TO PERONISTS ON MAY 25, SINCE NOT TO DO SO WOULD COMPOUND RATHER THAN ALLEVIATE PROBLEM OF TERRORISM, THERE IS ALWAYS POSSIBILITY OF IRRATIONAL ACT. SO FAR, HOWEVER, FACT THAT CAMPORA IS COMING BACK TO CONFER WITH JUNTA HAS AT LEAST POSTPONED CRISIS. MILITARY ARE AWAITING OUTCOME. MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON HOW COOPERATIVE AND FORTHCOMING CAMPORA IS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH JUNTA TODAY. BUT THE LONGER THE SITUATION CAN BE PREVENTED FROM COMING TO A HEAD, THE GREATER THE LIKELIHOOD THAT COOLER HEADS WILL PREVAIL. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, CONFIDENTIAL

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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